

REPLACEMENT CLAIMS

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same number.

1. (Amended) A device for picking up a stereoscopic image, comprising:
- one image pickup element to which an image light for a left eye and an image light for a right eye are guided for picking up an image for the left eye and an image for the right eye which are used as a stereoscopic image and given an appropriate visual angle;
 - a left-eye shutter disposed in an optical path of the image light for the left eye for taking any one of a shield state where the image light for the left eye is shielded and a pass state where the image light for the left eye is allowed to pass;
 - a right-eye shutter means for taking any one of a shield state where the image light for the right eye is shielded and a pass state where the image light for the left eye is allowed to pass;
 - one objective lens system that allows the image light for the left eye and the image light for the right eye to pass;
 - one light shield plate having two openings defined therein so that one light that has passed through one of those two openings in said light shield plate becomes the image light for the left eye, and the other light that has passed through the other opening in said shield plate becomes the image light for the right eye; and
 - one objective lens system that allows the image light for the left eye and the image light for the right eye to pass,

wherein said left-eye shutter means and said right-eye shutter means are alternately put into the pass state to make said image pickup element alternately pick up the image light for the right eye and the image light for the left eye,

wherein said light shield plate is disposed in proximity to an image sided principle point of said objective lens system, and

wherein said objective lens system comprises one objective lens, and said light shield plate is disposed close to any surface of said objective lens.

5. (Amended) The device for picking up a stereoscopic image as claimed in claim 1, wherein the two openings are disposed eccentrically from the optical axis of said objective lens system by regular distances, respectively.

8. (Amended) The device for picking up a stereoscopic image as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said left-eye shutter means and said right-eye shutter means includes a shutter plate that is disposed to be movable forward and backward in an optical path of the image light for the left eye or the image light for the right eye, through which the light does not pass, and wherein said shutter plate is disposed in each of the openings of said light shield plate.

9. (Amended) The device for picking up a stereoscopic image as claimed in claim 1, wherein said left-eye shutter means and said right-eye shutter means includes a polarizing plate, said polarizing plate comprising:

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two polarizing plates each of which polarizes the image light that has passed through one polarizing plate into the polarized light different in an orientation of a vibrating face from the image light that has passed through another polarizing plate; and

a passing light selecting means for alternately taking a first state in which one image light which has been polarized into the polarized light is shielded and the other image light is allowed to pass, and a second state in which the other image light which has been polarized into the polarized light is shielded, and said one image light is allowed to pass.

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11. (Amended) The device for picking up a stereoscopic image as claimed in claim 1, wherein each of said left-eye shutter means and said right-eye shutter means comprises:

a polarizing plate that is disposed on each of the openings of the light shield plate and polarizes the light that has passed through the light shield plate into a polarized light;

a liquid crystal plate that takes a non-rotation state where the image light that has been polarized into a polarized light by said polarizing light plate is allowed to pass without changing the orientation of its vibration plane and a rotation state where the image light that has been polarized into a polarized light by said polarizing plate is allowed to pass after its vibration plane has been rotated; and

a selection polarizing plate that allows the image light that has passed through said liquid crystal plate to pass in one state of said non-rotation state and said rotation state, and shields the image light that has passed through said liquid crystal plate in the other state of said non-rotation state and said rotation state.

12. (Amended) The device for picking up a stereoscopic image as claimed in claim 10, wherein said objective lens and said light shield plate are integrated with each other, said image pickup element, said liquid crystal plate and said selection polarizing plate are integrated together, and said image pickup element, said liquid crystal plate and said selection polarizing plate are separable from said objective lens and said light shield plate.

16. (Amended) A light shield plate which is fitted in an optical path of image light of a video camera having one image pickup element and guides image light for a left-eye image and image light for a right-eye image to which an appropriate visual angle is given to said image pickup element, to thereby pick up a stereoscopic image by said video camera; wherein said light shield plate has two openings, one light that has passed through one of the openings in said light shield plate becomes the image light for a left eye, and another light that has passed through the other opening in said light shield plate becomes the image light for a right eye; and wherein a shutter plate through which a light does not pass and which is so disposed as to be movable forward and backward in an optical path of the left-eye image light or the right-eye image light is disposed in each of the openings.